(b) if so, which of the Companies had registered extra-ordinary rise; and

(c) whether a study has been made regarding in house trading by any of these companies

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) No detailed survey has been made by the Government. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Government and the Stock Exchanges monitor the movement of the Index of share prices on a regular basis.

(c) No specific study of this nature has been made by the Government. SEBI has been given statutory powers for prohibiting insider trading in securities under the SEBI Act, 1992.

Proposal to set up Tribunal to Deal with Tax Laws

2034. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Tribunal and a Commission to deal with problems arising out of various direct and indirect tax laws; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes Madam; a Settlement Commission dealing with cases involving direct taxes already exists. A proposal for setting up two Tribunals under Art. 323 B of the Constitution under direct and indirect taxes and for setting up a settlement Commission for prompt settlement of Customs and Central Excise cases, is under active consideration.

(b) Details are being worked out.

Implementation of Gandhar Gas-based Power Projects of NTPC

2035. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Miinster of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to implement the Gandhar gas-based power project of the National Thermal Power Corporation;

(b) whether Government have received any communication from the Japanese Government about this project in February 1992 and, if so, what are the details therof; and

(c) what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has taken up initial infrastructural activities pertaining to the Gandhar gas based power project. The main plant contract was awarded by NTPC in March, 1992.

(b) and (c) No communication has been received from the Japanese Government in February, 1992. However, the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) in its communication of February, 1992 expressed concern at the slow progress in finalisation of the contract by NTPC and desired its speedy finalisation to enable disbursement of the loan amount earmarked for the purpose.

The contract was finalised in March, 1992 and NTPC have proposed to utilise the loan amount of first as well as second tranche by March, 1992.

Expeditious Clearance to pending Power Projects

2036. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister promised to give clearance to the pending power projects, expeditiously;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to implement this assurance;

(c) what steps are being taken to create a single window clearance for power projects in order to avoid delay in processing in different Departments; and

(d) what is the number of power projects pending for clearance and how much power generation is anticipated from these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes Sir. In the Power Minister's Conference held on 4-4-1992, Prime Minister assured a decision on 11 power projects which are pending for want of Environmental Clearance.

(b) Out of these, 4 projects have been cleared by Ministry of Environment and Forests and the remaining seven projects are under examination. Efforts are being made to resolve the issues which are holding up the clearance of these projects.

(c) There is no proposal of this Ministry for creating a single window clearance for power projects.

(d) 99 Power projects are pending with the Government for various clearances. The installed capacity of these projects is 47388.20 MW.

Pending Hydro-Electric Power Projects

2037. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while about 90 per cent of surface water in Uttar Pradesh has remained unutilised, there has been increasing dependence on various sources of energy like thermal power and atomic power, other than hydel power;

(b) what are the details of pending hydro-electric power projects in Uttar Pradesh in particular and in the northern grid in general, indicating the stage of their implementation; and

(c) what steps are contemplated to utilise the hydel power potential relating to surface water in Uttar Pradesh in particular and in northern grid in general under the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The hydro-electric potential of Uttar Pradesh has been assessed as 9744 MW. The hydro-electric schemes in operation in the State have developed 11.5 per cent of the estimated potetial. The schemes under construction would further develop a potential of 29.85 per cent.

(b) 30 hydro-electric projects in the Northern Region with a total capacity of 7171.25 MW are presently under various stages of construction of which 8 hydro-electric schemes with a total capacity of 2842.5 MW are located in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) 17 hydro-electric schemes in the Northern Region with a total capacity of 2568.25 MW have been included for benefits during the 8th plan period of which 4 hydro-electric schemes with a total installation of 1108.5 MW are located in Uttar Pradesh.

Losses to SEBs and NTPC

2038. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1846 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th December, 1991 and state:

(a) what is the cumulative losses of the State Electricity Boards as well as NTPC upto 31st March, 1992; and

(b) what are the details of total overdues to be recovered by these organisations as on the 31st March, 1992?